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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRASILIA 000464

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/22/2015

TAGS: BR CASC KCRM PGOV PHUM PREL SOCI TIP

SUBJECT: THREE SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY IN STANG MURDER, BUT

DOUBTS ABOUT INVESTIGATION EMERGE

REF: A. BRASILIA 00369 B. BRASILIA 00437 Classified By: Political Counselor Dennis Hearne. Reason: 1.4 (d).

1. (C) By February 22, police had arrested three of the four suspects in the February 12 murder of US missionary Dorothy Stang in Para state i
THREE OF FOUR SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY -----

2. (C) On February 21, the third of four suspects in the murder of US missionary Sister Dorothy Stang was taken into custody by police in the
STATE POLICE MAY BE COMPROMISED -----

4. (C) On February 21, Embassy Poloff, USAID Environmental Officer and US Consular Agent met with authorities in Belem, the capital of Para st

5. (C) State police have primary jurisdiction over murder cases, and the Para authorities have taken the lead in investigating the Stang murde
Manoel Santino, the Special State Secretary for Social Defense, who commands the state's two police forces (the investigative "Policia Civil" a

6. (C) In a separate conversation, XXXXXX, pronounced himself "deeply concerned" that the investigation will be intentionally compromised by s

7. (C) XXXXXX's fears about the involvement of the state police were echoed by State Congressman XXXXXX . XXXXXX is an environmentalist who se

8. (C) Further suspicions were raised by odd public comments from the attorney for alleged ringleader Bida de Moura. The attorney, Augusto Seg
RED HERRING SUSPECT -----

9. (C) One element of the confession of triggerman Rayfran de Sales is universally disbelieved: his charge that the murder was ordered by Frar
"FEDERALIZATION" OF THE CASE -----

10. (C) A recently-passed law allows the federal government to take over from the states cases of grave human rights abuses. The law has yet t
HEIGHTENED SECURITY IN THE REGION -----

11. (C) The state and federal police have reinforced their presence in the interior of the state. In addition, the Army has deployed approxime

12. (C) David Stang, brother of Dorothy, will be arriving in Brazil February 24 to visit the gravesite of his sister. Though the visit is orch
COMMENT - INTENSE PRESS AND GOB ATTENTION -----

13. (C) The Stang murder continues to command great attention from the Brazilian government and press. Federal and state task forces have beer
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